

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

DIVISION OF STATEWIDE PLANNING

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

3132 CHANNEL DRIVE
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-7898
PHONE: (907) 465-4070
TEXT: (907) 465-3652
FAX: (907) 465-6984

January 6, 2000

Roy Matsuno
Tribal Administrator
206 E. Fireweed, #204
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Mr. Matsuno:


Thank you for your letter of December 23 concerning the Southwest Alaska Transportation Plan and specifically the Trans Peninsula Highway concept.

Your first question pertains to how much of the \$400 million received annually for surface transportation is spent in rural areas. I don't have a ready answer for this question, as it would take an analysis of many thousands of records over a decade or more of project allocations. We have the necessary data, just not in a form which would allow easy tabulation between rural and urban areas. However, the consultant for the Southwest Plan did prepare a detailed analysis (copy enclosed) of transportation spending in Southwest Alaska (Preliminary Assessment of Potential Financial Resources), which may help answer some of your question about the distribution of transportation funding.

Your next question is about the Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898, and the related TEA monies set aside for tribal entities. The EO 12898 is also attached as is some more recent directives from the Federal Highway Administration concerned with implementing the EO 12898. You can also find a wealth of information on the Environmental Justice issue pertaining to transportation at the FHWA web site on this topic: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/ej2.htm> As for the special TEA monies I believe they are administered by the BIA directly and do not flow through the State of Alaska.

As for the idea of a joint project with the BIA, I think this would be a good idea. Robert Martin, Jr., the new director for the BIA Roads Program is meeting with us on January 7 to discuss opportunities for cooperation, including joint funding. I will make a point to bring up your request.

Sincerely


Jeffery C. Ottesen, AICP
Statewide Planning Chief

Enclosures

- (1) Preliminary Assessment of Potential Financial Resources Technical Memorandum June 1999
- (2) Environmental Justice in Project **Development**/NEPA
- (3) FHWA Actions to address Environmental Justice (6640.23)
- (4) Federal Executive Order 12898

Cc: Robert Martin, Jr., BIA